

a guide means, attached to said first support plate, for guiding a wallboard tape of predetermined width being applied to a joint;

a first orifice means, attached to said first support plate, for feeding a first layer of joint compound to a surface of said wall board tape intermediate said joint and said wallboard tape, said first orifice means fluidically connected to said fluid conduit means;

a tape cutting means, mounted on said first support plate, intermediate said guide means and said first orifice means, for cutting said wallboard tape widthwise after having passed through said guide means;

a second support plate, releasably attachable to said handle means;

second orifice means, formed in said second support plate proximate said first support plate, of overcoating said wallboard tap with a second layer of said joint compound, said second orifice means having a width greater than said wallboard tape, said second orifice means being centered, widthwise with respect to said guide means;

third orifice means, formed in said second support plate remote from said first support plate, for overcoating said second layer of said joint compound with a third layer of said joint compound, said third orifice means having a width greater than said second orifice means, said third orifice means being centered, widthwise, with respect to said guide means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said taping head means further comprises roller means, mounted on said second support plate, for imprinting a surface pattern on said third layer of said joint compound.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said surface pattern imprinted on said third layer of said joint compound matches a surface pattern on said wallboard.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said taping head means further comprises tape advance means, mounted on said first support plate, for advancing a predetermined length of said wallboard tape through said guide means.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tape supply means comprises:

- a first disc rotatably mounted on said handle, said first disc having a radially extending flange;
- a second disc rotatably mounted on said handle, said second disc having a radially extending flange;
- said first and second discs being rotatable about a common axis and movable on said axis relative to one another;
- said first and second discs being receivable within a core supporting a roll of wallboard tape;
- biasing means for causing at least one of said first and second discs to yieldably move toward the other.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said backpack means comprises:

- a support frame;
- a container support mounted on said support frame, said container support being receivable of a unit container of said joint compound in a predetermined orientation;
- pump means, mounted on said support frame, for producing a pressurized stream of said joint compound;

power supply means, mounted on said support frame, for driving said pump means;

pipng means for supplying joint compound from a unit container mounted in said container support to said pump means;

outlet means for fluidically receiving said pressurized stream of said joint compound from said pump means, said outlet means including connection means for releasably connecting said outlet means to said flexible connecting means.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said pump means comprises a pair of pumps.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said power supply means comprises a pair of electric motors, each of said electric motors driving a respective pump.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said power supply means further comprises rechargeable battery means for supplying electric power to said electric motors.

10. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said piping means further includes means for piercing a wall of said unit container, when it is received within said container support, to form a hermetic fluidic connection between said container and said pumps.

11. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said taping head means further comprises biasing means, attached to said second support plate, for yieldably urging said wallboard tape and, hence, said first layer of joint compound, into contact with said wall, when said taping head means is in contact with said wall, to embed said wallboard tape in said first layer of joint compound.

12. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- first passage means, formed in said second support plate, for fluidically connecting said second orifice means and said fluid conduit means;
- first gate means, pivotally connected to said second support plate for pivotal movement between a first position and a second position, said first gate means preventing flow of joint compound through said second orifice means when in said first position and allowing flow of joint compound through said second orifice means when in said second position;
- second biasing means for yieldably urging said first gate means to said first position;
- second passage means, formed in said second support plate, for fluidically connecting said third orifice means and said fluid conduit means;
- second gate means, pivotally connected to said second support plate for pivotal movement between a first position and a second position, said second gate means preventing flow of joint compound through said third orifice means when in said first position and allowing flow of joint compound through said third orifice means when in said second position; and
- third biasing means for yieldably urging said second gate means to said first position.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said taping head means furthest comprises:

- first resilient wiper blade means, mounted on said second support plate intermediate said second orifice means and said third orifice means, for spreading and smoothing said second layer of said joint compound; and
- second resilient wiper blade means, mounted on said second support plate on the opposite side of said third orifice means from said first resilient wiper